

Whitney Cassity-Caywood Ph.D., L.C.S.W.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Social Work

University of Louisville/University of Kentucky

Dissertation: The Housing Realities of Persons with Severe and Persistent
Mental Illnesses in Rural Areas

Master of Science in Social Work

University of Louisville

B.A. in Psychology, magna cum laude

Transylvania University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Pedagogical Professor, *Western Kentucky University*, 2024-present

Courses Taught

- SWK 357 Case Management
- SWK 375 Social Work Practice I
- SWK 480 Social Work Field Practicum I
- SWK 481 Social Work Field Seminar I
- SWK 482 Social Work Field Practicum II
- SWK 483 Social Work Field Seminar II

Assistant Professor, *Murray State University*, 2020-2024

Instructor in Social Work, *Murray State University*, 2017-2020

Adjunct Faculty in Social Work, *Murray State University*, 2006-2017

Courses Taught

- SWK 102 Introduction to Human Services
- SWK 201 Social Work and Social Welfare
- SWK 305 Services for Older Americans
- SWK 308 Interviewing Skills
- SWK 350 Social Welfare Policies and Services
- SWK 355 Perspectives on Women
- SWK 365 Crisis Intervention

SWK 370 Gerontological Social Work Theory
SWK 371 Biopsychosocial Aspects of Aging
SWK 385 Social Work in Mental Health Settings
SWK 424 Case Management

Adjunct Faculty in Social Work, *Western Kentucky University*, 2008/2009; 2021-2024
Courses Taught

SWK 560 Foundation Field Practicum I
SWK 561 Foundation Field Practicum II
SWK 521 Social Work Clinical Assessment and Intervention
SWK 620 Advanced Approaches for Rural Practice
SWK 640 Applied Social Research

Adjunct Faculty in Social Work, *University of Kentucky*, 2004-2005
Courses Taught

SW 450 Social Work Research
SW 750 Research Design and Implementation in Social Work Practice I
SW 751 Research Design and Implementation II

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING _____

Fostering A Culture of Belonging certification, The Association of College and University Educators and American Council on Education, December 2024

AI Beyond the Classroom, workshop, WKU CITL, October 2024

AI Integration: Finding Your Path Forward, workshop, WKU CITL, September 2024

WKU Teaching Fundamentals, September, 20204

Effective Instruction certification (25-week course), The Association of College and University Educators and American Council on Education, April 2023

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE _____

Fellow for Service-LifeSkills Center for Child Welfare Education and Research, 2024-present

- Lead in the coordination, management, and promotion of the Center's service-related activities
- Collaboration on selected projects including:
 - Unity in Action event, October 2024
 - Child Welfare Expo, April 2025
 - LCCWEAR Applied Learning Series, to be launched 2025

Research Affiliate-LifeSkills Center for Child Welfare Education and Research, 2021-2024

- Collaborated with the multidisciplinary team to conduct original research informing best practices in the field
- Produced two published manuscripts
- Mentored graduate assistants who assisted with research and were included in publication

Clinical Consultant-Lotus (Sexual Violence Resource Center/Children's Advocacy Center), 2019-present

- Provide individual and group supervision and consultation to multidisciplinary clinical staff
- Consult with program administrators on clinical professional development

- Assist the agency with program evaluation and outcome data collection and analysis
- Assist clinicians with the development of trauma treatment protocols

Licensed Clinical Social Worker-private practice, 2009-present

- Provide individual, couples, and family counseling
- Apply a variety of treatment modalities tailored to clients' needs such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Psychodynamic, Internal Family Systems, Mindfulness, and Solution Focused Interventions
- Serve as a clinical supervisor and consultant for clinicians pursuing independent licensure

Bluegrass Regional MH-MR Board (New Vista), 1999-2004

- Provided case management to individuals with severe and persistent mental illnesses
- Provided outpatient therapy to individuals, groups, and families
- Managed a supportive housing program for individuals with severe mental illnesses experiencing housing insecurity

PUBLICATIONS

Cassity-Caywood, W., Griffiths, A., Woodward, M., & Hatfield, (A.). (2023). The benefits and challenges of shifting to telehealth during COVID-19: Qualitative feedback from Kentucky's sexual violence resource centers and children's advocacy centers. *Journal of Technology in Behavioral Science*, 8(1), 87-99. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41347-022-00296-w>

Cassity-Caywood, W., Woodward, M., Griffiths, A., & Hatfield, A. (2022). Lessons learned from COVID-19: Provider suggestions for improving service delivery in sexual violence resource centers and children's advocacy centers in Kentucky. *Contemporary Rural Social Work Journal*, 14(1). <https://digitalcommons.murraystate.edu/crsw/vol14/iss1/1/>

Cassity-Caywood, W. (2021, November). *Impacts of COVID-19 on SVRCs and CACs in Kentucky: Preliminary Report of Qualitative Findings*. Submitted to the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs and the Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky.

Cassity-Caywood, W. (2019). Contemporary mental health care in rural areas: Challenges and strategies. *Contemporary Rural Social Work Journal*, 11(1) , Article 13. <https://digitalcommons.murraystate.edu/crsw/vol11/iss1/13>

Cassity-Caywood, W., & Huber, R. (2004). Rural older adults at home. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work* 41, (3/4), 229-245.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **Quick Turn Around Grant (QTAG)**, WKU College for Health and Human Services, 2024
- **Teaching Development Grant**, WKU Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL), 2024
- **Fonetta A. Elam Award for Exemplary Clinical Supervision for Those Working to Address Sexual Violence**, Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, 2024
- **Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award**, College of Education and Human Services, Murray State University, 2023

- **Nominee for Board of Regents Teaching Excellence Award**, Department of Community Leadership and Human Services, College of Education and Human Services, Murray State University, 2021, 2022, 2023

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Nominating Committee (elected position), Association of Social Work Boards, 2024-2026
- Regulatory Education and Leadership Committee, Association of Social Work Boards, 2024-2025
- Regulatory Research Committee, Association of Social Work Boards, 2023- 2025
- Governor Appointee to the Kentucky Board of Social Work, 2020-present
 - Served as the KBSW Chair 2022 and Vice-Chair, 2021, 2023
 - Assist KBSW with the development of updated practice regulations
 - Served on the KBSW Ethical Complaint Committee
 - Served as KBSW's delegate to the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)
- Board Member and Secretary, Child Watch Counseling and Advocacy Center, 2015- 2021

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Bachelor of Social Work Program Director, College of Health and Human Services, 2024-present
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, College of Health and Human Services 2024-present
- ADEI Committee, Department of Social Work, 2024-present
- Curriculum Committee, Program Evaluation Committee, Student Concerns Committee, AI Committee, BSW Program, 2024-present

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- (Submitted) Building Digital Readiness: Embedding Telehealth Competencies in BSW Education for Child Welfare Practice. *National Title IV-E Roundtable on Child Welfare Training and Education, 2025*
- (Accepted) Enhancing Social Work Education for a Telehealth Ready Workforce. *Social Work Distance Education 2025 Virtual Conference.*
- (Accepted) Developing Students' Soft Skills in Online Practice Classes. *Social Work Distance Education 2025 Virtual Conference.*
- Social Work Distance Education 2024 Virtual Conference. *Improving Student Access Through Engaged Distance Learning*
- Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs Conference for Ending Sexual Violence, 2022, *Continuing Our Work Through COVID: Lessons Learned*
- National Title IV-E Roundtable on Child Welfare Training and Education, 2022, *Trauma Treatment Via Telehealth: Benefits, Challenges, and Lessons Learned*
- Kentucky Association of Social Work Educators, 2021, *Applications of Polyvagal Theory in Teaching, Practice, and Self-Care* and *Zoom Online Teaching Tips*
- Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence 21st Conference for Ending Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, 2019, *Helping the Helper: Self-Care Strategies for Thriving*
- National Institute on Social Work and Human Services in Rural Areas, 2019, *Providing Self-Care Psychoeducation to Underserved and Populations in Rural Areas*, *DBT Informed Practice in Rural Areas* and *The Challenges of Providing Mental Health Care in Rural Areas*
- Western KY Counseling Association, 2018, *DBT Informed Practice*

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, KY 1685

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- National Association of Social Workers
- American Association of Social Work Boards
- Council on Social Work Education
- The Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors

PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

- Mental health
- Telehealth
- Rural issues
- Sexual violence
- Child maltreatment